

What Do Learners Need from the STEM Microcredential Ecosystem?

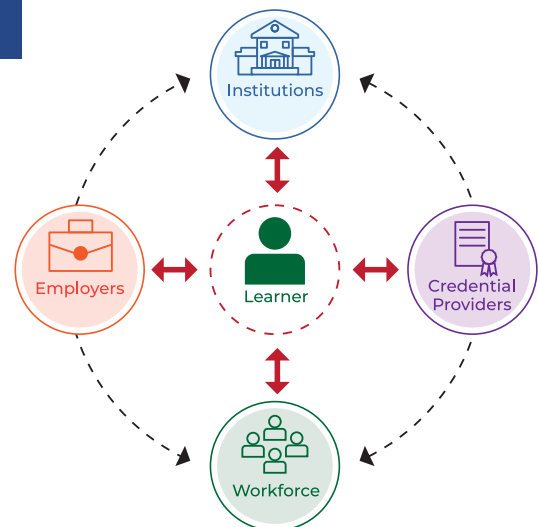
Developing the first large-scale instrument focused specifically on STEM microcredential

WHY THIS MATTERS

Institutions, employers, and policymakers are making decisions about STEM microcredentials, yet the field still lacks a systematic way to understand the learners navigating these pathways.

Current Ecosystem Gaps

- Limited evidence about STEM microcredential learners
- Unclear connections between credentials and career outcomes
- Fragmented pathways across institutions, industries, and providers



The ALIGN Scale: Understanding STEM Microcredential Learner Experiences

The ALIGN Scale provides a structured approach for understanding STEM microcredential learner experiences through four interconnected dimensions that examine learner motivations, barriers, expectations, and perceived impacts across microcredential.



Content and structural validity evidence were developed through iterative engagement with experts and learners.



WHATS NEXT?



Refine

Complete Validation of the ALIGN Scale



Understand

Develop Learner Personas



Illuminate

Improve Ecosystem Transparency

Together, these efforts will help learners better navigate STEM microcredential pathways while supporting stronger connections between education, credentials, and



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